

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph number 58, beginning at page 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[58] In one embodiment the tissue-stimulating device may be a prosthetic hearing implant, such as a Cochlear™ implant made by Cochlear Limited, with the elongate member comprising a carrier member for a plurality of electrodes. (COCHLEAR is a trademark of Cochlear Limited, Lane Cove, NSW, Australia.) The tip member in this embodiment may be constructed to assist in the guiding of the elongate member into the cochlea, particularly into the scala tympani of the cochlea.

Please replace the paragraph number 64, beginning at page 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[64] In one embodiment of the present invention, the body of the elongate member may be formed from a suitable biocompatible material. In one embodiment of the present invention, the material may be a silicone. In another embodiment, the body may be formed from a suitable elastomeric material, such as [[a]]polyurethane or other biocompatible rubbers or plastics.

Please replace the paragraph number 71, beginning at page 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[71] The tip member of the present invention is useful for those elongate members inserted in the cochlea using an Advance Off-Stylet™ (AOS™) mode of implantation. (ADVANCED OFF-STYLET and AOS are trademarks of Cochlear Limited, Lane Cove, NSW, Australia.) In this mode, the elongate member while mounted on a stylet is inserted through a cochleostomy until the tip member is positioned just short of the basal turn of the cochlea. Once the tip member has reached this position, the elongate member may be advanced or moved off the stylet and further into the scala tympani. As the elongate member is advanced off the stylet, the elongate member is also free to begin to adopt its preferential spiral curvature. The construction of the tip member of the present invention prevents foldover of the tip member as the tip member is moved off the stylet. The length of the tip

member, however, is also sufficiently short to ensure that the tip member does not damage the walls of the scala tympani once the elongate member has reached its desired final insertion position in the cochlea.

Please replace the paragraph number 74, beginning at page 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[74] FIG. 2 illustrates a prosthetic hearing implant device 200 including a tip member 202 having a constant cross-sectional diameter d_2 along the length of tip member 202. Similarly with tip member 102 shown in FIG. 1, tip member 202 is essentially an extension a carrier member 204 for the electrode array (not shown) beyond the position of the most distal electrode (not shown). As is shown, when a force represented by arrow 222 is applied to a distal end 228 of tip member 202, tip member 202 will flex about a location 230 where tip member 202 joins carrier member 204.

Please replace the paragraph number 76, beginning at page 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[76] FIGS. 3A and 3B ~~represents~~ represent one embodiment of a tip member 302 of the present invention. Tip member 302 includes a cylindrical barrel portion 304, a frusto-conical tapered portion 306 at a distal end 308 of barrel portion 304 and a part-spherical blunt end 310 at distal end 312 of tapered portion 306. Blunt end 310 terminates at tip member distal end 313-314. Within cylindrical barrel portion 304 is a lumen 314 for receiving a stiffening element (not shown). Cylindrical barrel portion 304 has diameter 318 that is constant. In contrast, tapered portion 306 has a diameter that continuously decreases along the length of tapered portion 306, as illustrated by exemplary diameters 320 and 322. Tip member 302 is attached to a carrier member (not shown in FIG. 3) at a proximal end 330 of tip member 302. An angle 332 between notional diametrically opposed sides 334 and 336 of tapered portion 306 is 18.9°. Lumen 314 has a constant diameter 342.

Please replace the paragraph number 83, beginning at page 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[83] In one embodiment of the present invention, the length of the part-spherical blunt end has a length of about 0.04 mm and over this length the diameter of blunt end decreases from about 0.2mm to 0.0 mm at the very distal end of the blunt end.

Please replace the paragraph number 84, beginning at page 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[84] FIGS. 4A and 4B ~~illustrates a~~ illustrate an electrode array device 400 in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. Electrode array device 400 includes tip member 302 mounted on an elongate member 402, only a portion of which is shown in FIG. 4A. Elongate member 402 includes a lumen 404 extending therethrough. Tip member 302 is held on elongate member 402 by means of a liquid silicone rubber adhesive 406. Filler portions 408 of adhesive 406 smooth the transition from elongate member 402 to tip member 302, because in this embodiment a distal end 410 of elongate member 402 has a larger diameter than tip member proximal end 330. For illustration purposes, the amount of adhesive 406 between elongate member distal end 410 and tip member proximal end 330 is exaggerated in the depiction in FIG. 4A. A stylet 422 inserted into elongate member extends through lumen 404 and into lumen 314 of tip member 302. Elongate member 402 is slightly tapered, but the taper of elongate member 402 is not as great as the taper of tapered portion 306 of tip member 302. Elongate member 402 includes electrodes 432 on one side of elongate member 402. During insertion into a cochlea (not shown), tip member 302 may be subject to ~~[[a]]~~ an impact/deflection force represented by arrow 442. As illustrated in FIG. 4B, elongate member 402 has a rounded corner square shaped cross-section having a minimum width 452.

Please replace the paragraph number 89, beginning at page 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[89] FIG. 7 illustrates ~~[[a]]~~ an electrode array device 702 of the present invention including a tip member 704 that is integral with an elongate member 706. A stylet 708 is inserted through a lumen in elongate member 706 and into a lumen in tip member 704.

Electrode array device 702 is essentially similar to electrode array device 400 in both structure and function, except that tip member 704 is integral with elongate member 706 whereas in electrode array device 402 tip member 302 is mounted on elongate member 402. As illustrated in FIG. 7, electrode array device 702 is in a curved orientation, similar to the curved orientation of electrode array device 400 in FIG. 5.